

Bullying Prevention What is the Connection to Your Work as Legislators?

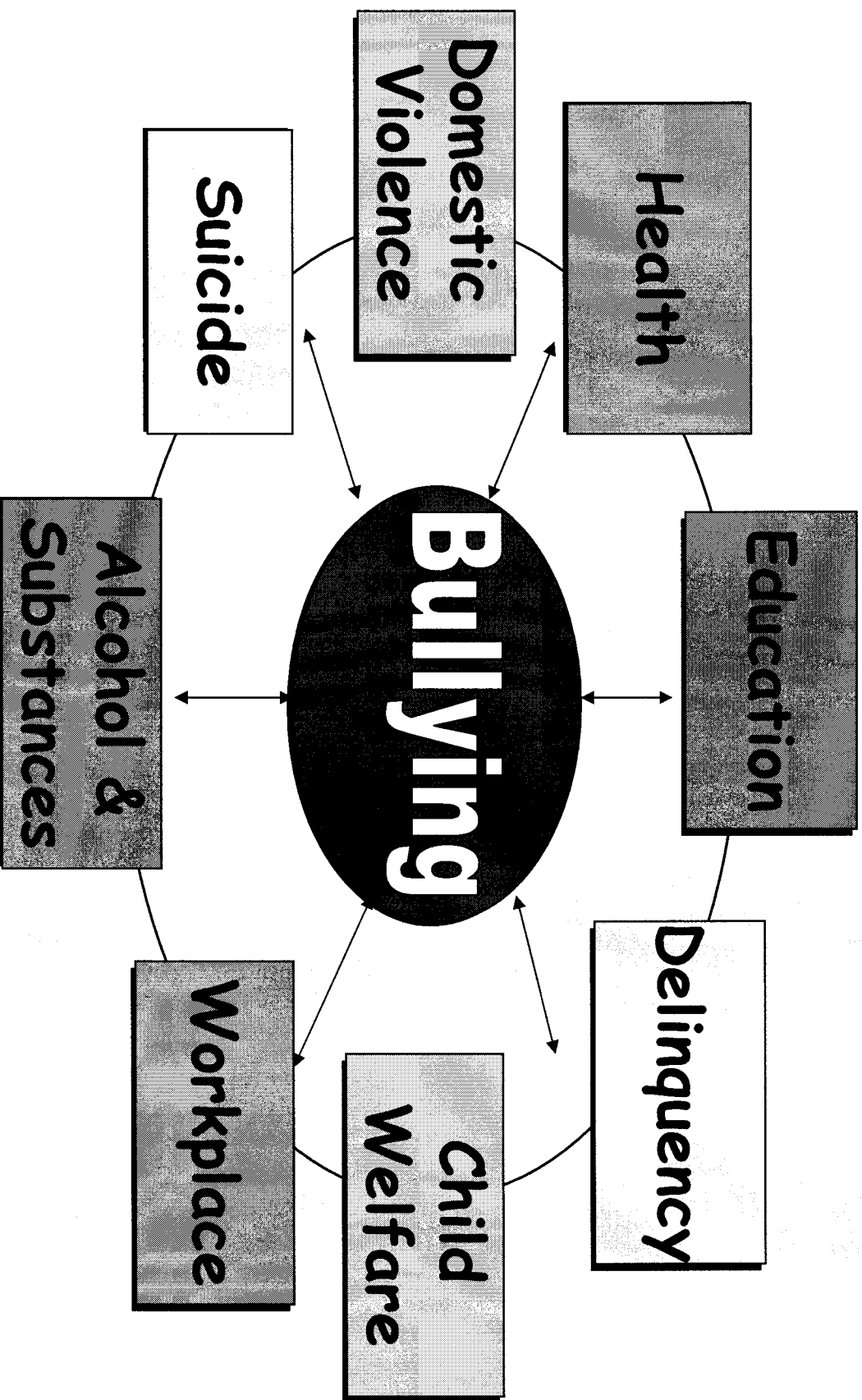
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What's the Connection?



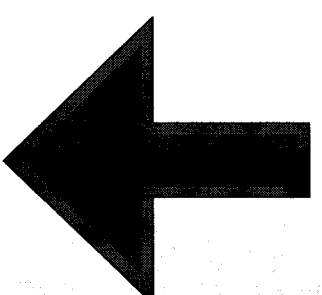
Bullying . . .

"A student is being bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more students."

**Bullying involves
an imbalance in
power or strength.**

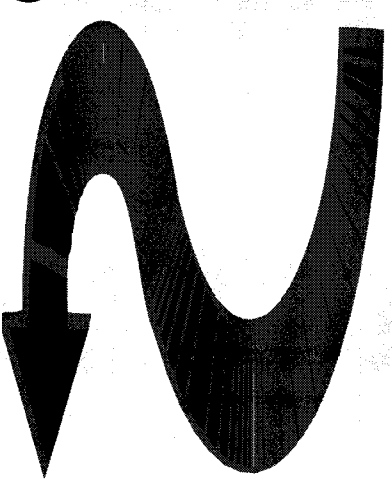
**The student who is bullied
has difficulty defending
himself/herself.**

Direct Bullying



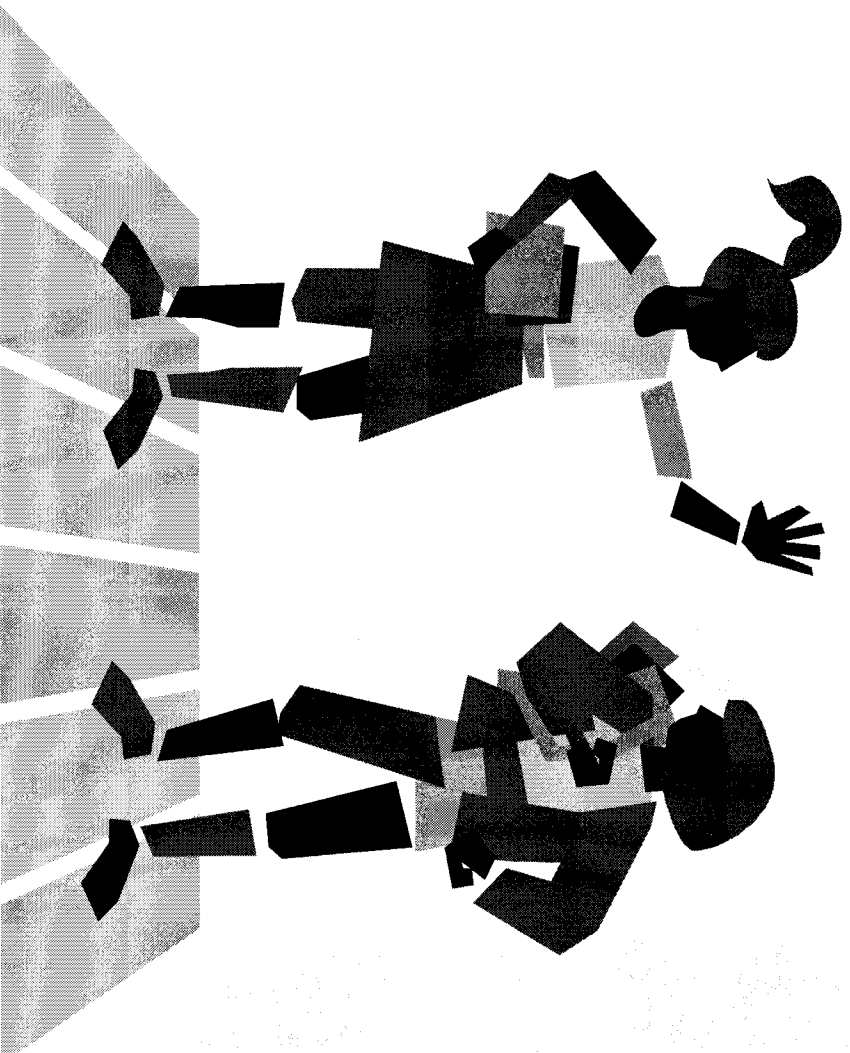
- Hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, damaging / taking property, confinement, threatening bodily harm
- Taunting, mocking, name-calling, degrading comments, slurs, verbal threats, digital intimidation
- Threatening, obscene gestures, exclusion from group

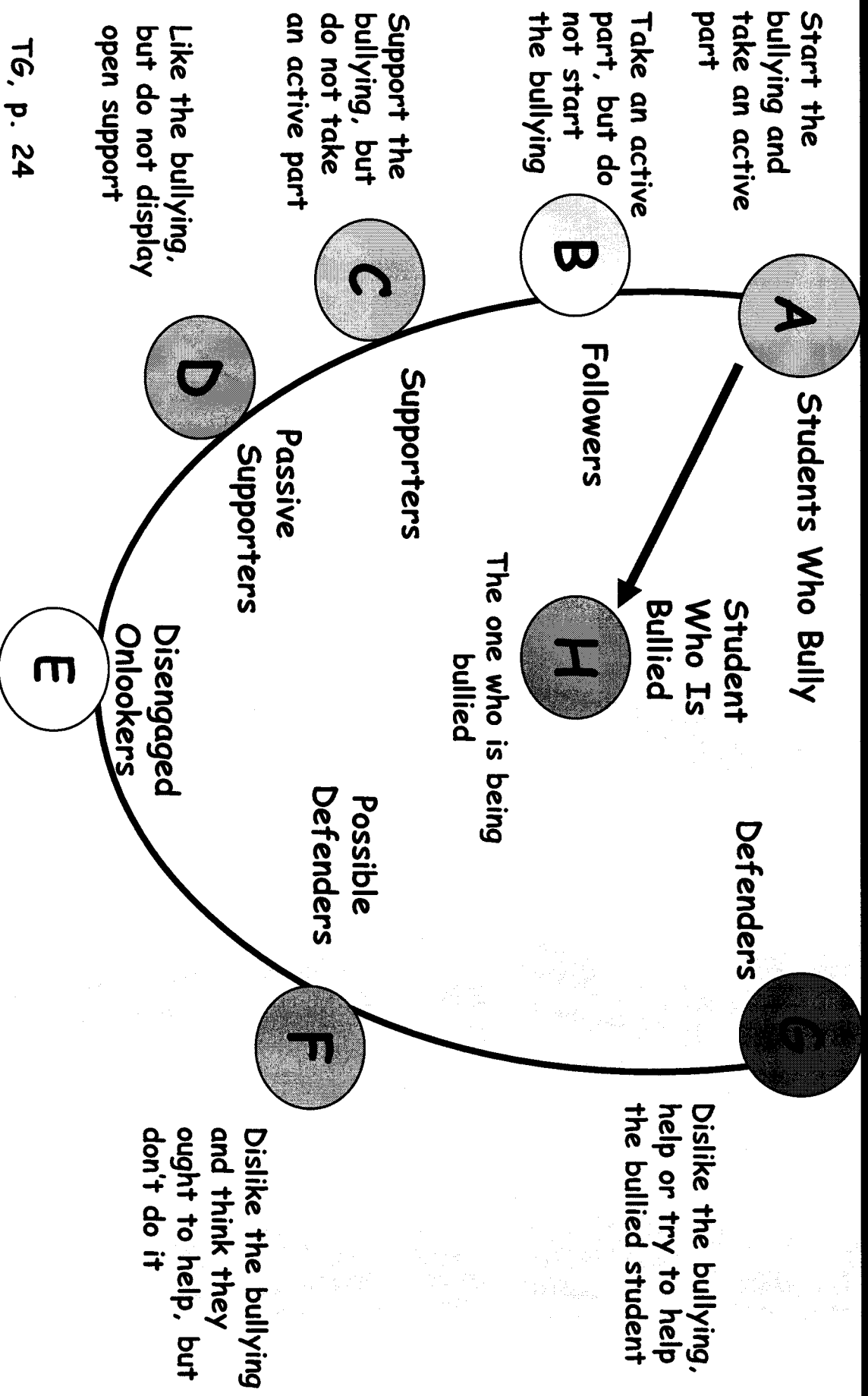
Indirect Bullying



- *Getting another person to assault someone*
- *Spreading rumors, gossip to destroy friendships or reputation, public humiliation (personal info)*
- *Social isolation, set up humiliation, setting up for blame*
- *Cyber-bullying*

BULLYING = PEER ABUSE





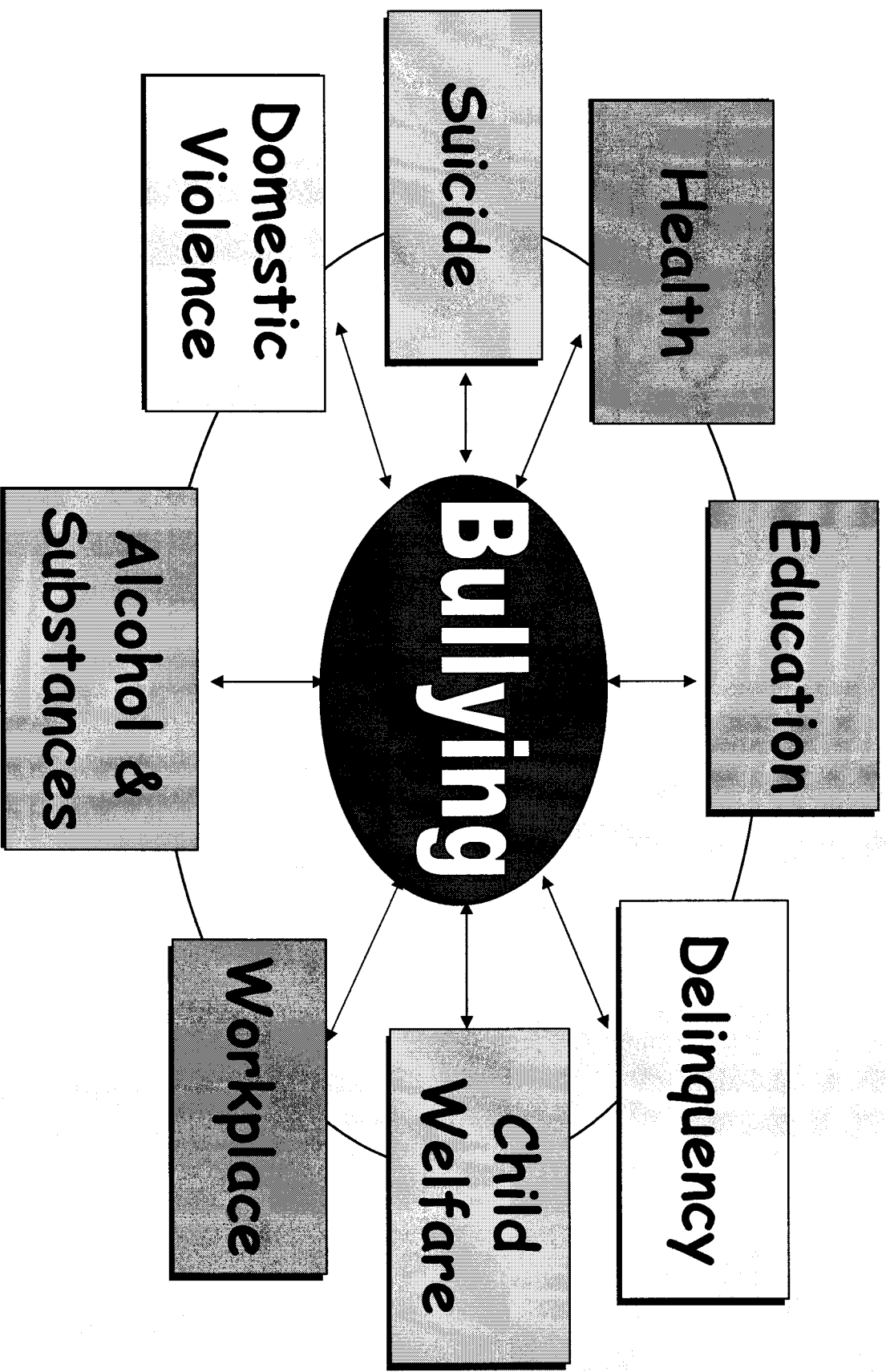
TG, p. 24

Watch what happens, don't take a stand

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How has society reacted to abuse?

1. Through denial "*It's not important;*" "*He didn't mean it.*"
2. By blaming the victim or asking the victim to solve the problem: "*You should wear different clothes;*" "*He just does it because he knows it bothers you;*" "*Just laugh it off;*" "*Don't go around them.*"
3. And through comprehensive intervention including training, consequences, helping abusers change, positive peer pressure, and support for targets.



Mental Health

Prevalence of Bullying

- *Nansel et al. (2001): national sample of 15,600 students in grades 6-10*
 - 19% bullied others "sometimes" or more often
 - 9% bullied others weekly
 - 17% were bullied "sometimes" or more often
 - 8% were bullied weekly
 - 6% reported bullying *and* being bullied "sometimes" or more often

Impact of Bullying on School Engagement & Student Academic Achievement

- **Bullied children are more likely to:**
 - **Want to avoid going to school**
(Kochenderfer & Ladd, 1996)
 - **Have higher absenteeism rates**
(Rigby, 1996; Smith et al, 2004)
 - **Say they dislike school; receive lower grades** (Eisenberg et al., 2003)

Long-Term Effects of Bullying on Victims

- **Higher rates of illness**
- **More suicidal ideation**
 - **"Bullycide"**

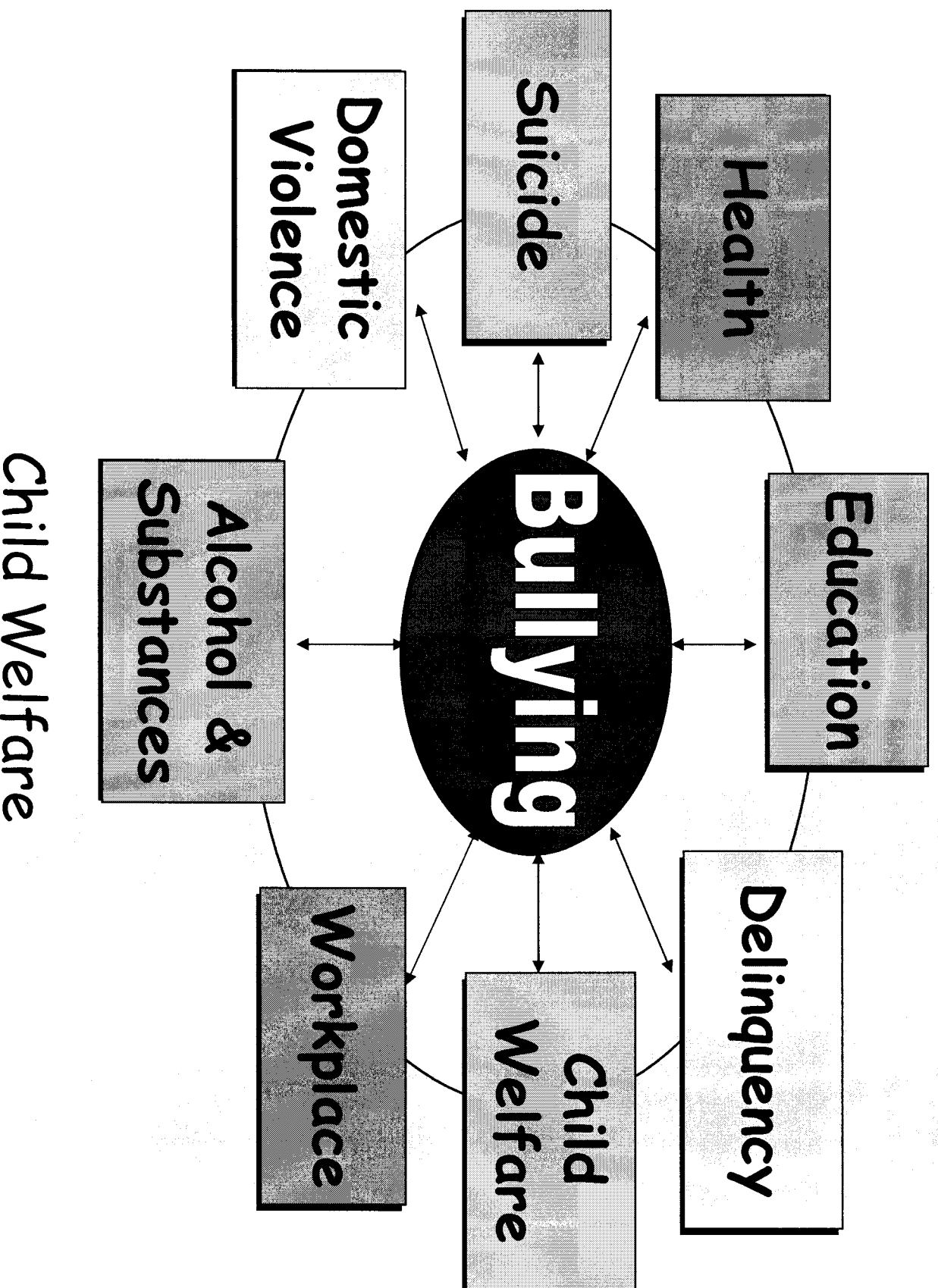
Health Consequences of Bullying (Fekkes et al., 2003)

	<u>Bullied</u>	<u>Not bullied</u>
Headache	16%	6%
Sleep problems	42%	23%
Abdominal pain	17%	9%
Feeling tense	20%	9%
Anxiety	28%	10%
Feeling unhappy	23%	5%
Depression scale		
moderate indication	49%	16%
strong indication	16%	2%

Safe School Initiative Report

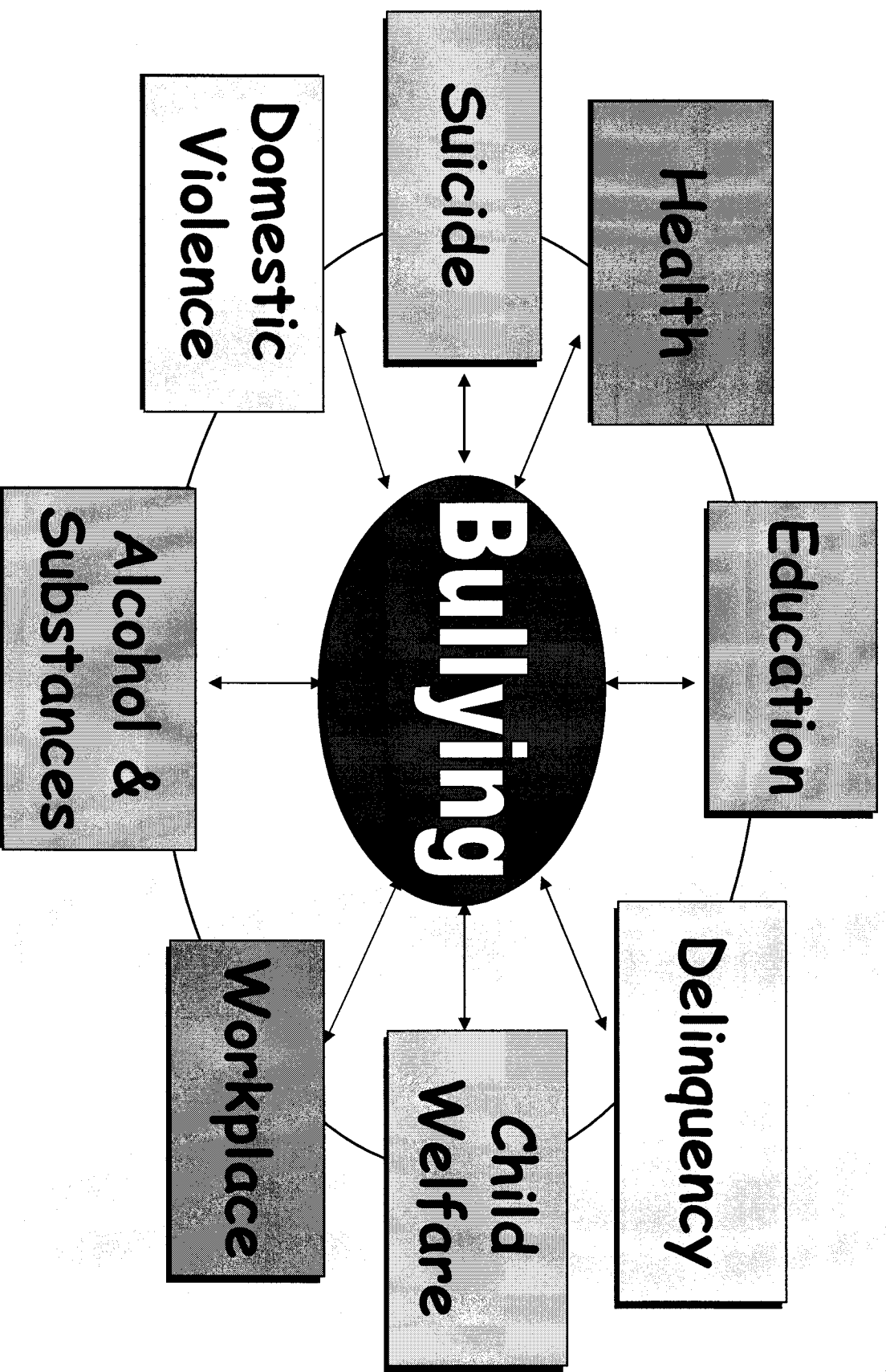
(2002)

- U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Dept. of Education
- Studied 37 incidents of targeted school violence, involving 41 attackers (1974-2000)
 - 3/4 of attackers felt persecuted, bullied prior to the incident
 - 1/3 of attackers characterized as "loners"
 - 1/4 socialized with students who were disliked by most mainstream students
- Many had considered suicide



Child Welfare Connection

- **When parents excessively bully their children, the children can be removed....**
 - **Physical Abuse**
 - **Emotional Abuse**
 - **Neglect**
 - **Montana state law does not, however, protect children from peer on peer abuse.**

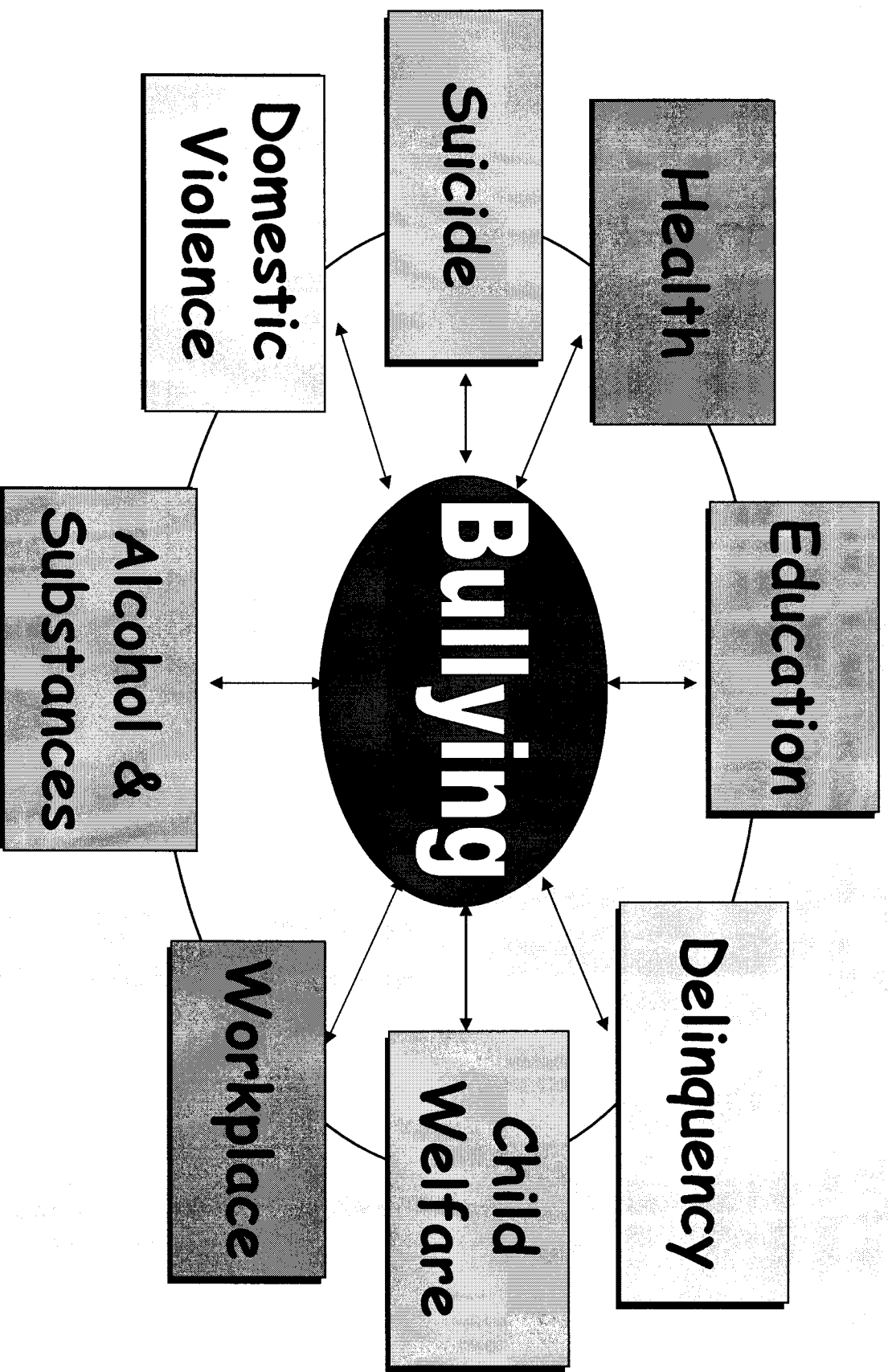


Juvenile Delinquency - Law Enforcement

Longitudinal Study of Children who Bullied Others

(Olweus, 1993)

- **60% of boys who were bullies in middle school had at least one serious conviction by age 24.**
- **40% had three or more convictions.**
- **Bullies were 4 times as likely as peers to have multiple convictions.**



Bullying in the Workplace

Bullying in the Workplace

- **“Repeated inappropriate behavior, direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical, or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others, at the place of work and/or in the course of employment, which could reasonably be regarded as undermining or abusive use of power.”**

Bullying in the Workplace

- **Cost to Employers**
 - De-motivation and reduced performance
 - Time lost
 - Sickness absence
 - Management time lost dealing with problems
 - Employees leaving
 - Recruitment and training; replacement costs
 - Legal liability

When abuse is allowed and adults do not intervene, bystanders believe that the victim deserves the abuse.

In time, bystanders lose empathy for victims and are less likely to intervene as they get older.

~Bystanders~

"The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of those that do evil, but because of those who watch and let it happen."

Albert Einstein

